Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter comprising:

an inductor ~~(L)~~ and a main switch ~~(M1)~~ having a main current path, the inductor ~~(L)~~ and the main current path being arranged in series for receiving a DC-input voltage ~~(VIN)~~,

a measuring circuit ~~(MC)~~ coupled to a junction ~~(J1)~~ of the inductor ~~(L)~~ and the main current path to obtain a measuring signal ~~(MS)~~ being indicative of a voltage across the main current path, and

a control circuit ~~(CC)~~ for controlling on-periods ~~(Ton)~~ and/or off-periods ~~(Toff)~~ of the main switch ~~(M1)~~ to stabilize an output voltage ~~(VO)~~ supplied to a load ~~(LO)~~, and having an input ~~(IN)~~ for receiving the measuring signal ~~(MS)~~ to protect the main switch ~~(M1)~~ against an overvoltage.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the measuring circuit ~~(MC)~~ comprises a series arrangement of a diode ~~(D)~~ and a capacitor ~~(C)~~, the series arrangement of the diode ~~(D)~~ and the capacitor ~~(C)~~ being coupled in parallel with the inductor ~~(L)~~, the input of the control circuit ~~(IN)~~ being coupled to a junction ~~(J2)~~ of the series arrangement of the diode ~~(D)~~ and the capacitor ~~(C)~~.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the diode ~~(D)~~ is coupled to the junction of the main switch ~~(M1)~~ and the inductor ~~(L)~~, the diode ~~(D)~~ being poled to be able to conduct during the off-period ~~(Toff)~~ of the main switch ~~(M1)~~.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein the measuring circuit ~~(MC)~~ comprises a resistor ~~(R)~~ coupled across the capacitor ~~(C)~~.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the measuring circuit ~~(MC)~~ comprises a resistor divider ~~(R1, R2)~~ comprising a first resistor ~~(R1)~~ and a second resistor ~~(R2)~~, the first resistor ~~(R1)~~ being coupled

between the junction ~~(J2)~~ of the capacitor ~~(C)~~ and the diode ~~(D)~~ and the input ~~(IN)~~ of the control circuit ~~(CC)~~, the second resistor ~~(R2)~~ being coupled between the input ~~(IN)~~ of the control circuit ~~(CC)~~ and a fixed potential.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 5, wherein the control circuit ~~(CC)~~ comprises:

a series arrangement of a further switch ~~(S1)~~ and a current-to-voltage converter ~~(IVC)~~, the series arrangement being coupled between the input ~~(IN)~~ and a reference potential,

a first comparator ~~(AM1)~~ for comparing a voltage at the input ~~(IN)~~ with a first reference voltage ~~(VR1)~~ when the further switch ~~(S1)~~ is open, and

a second comparator ~~(AM2)~~ for comparing a voltage at an output of the current to voltage converter ~~(IVC)~~ with a second reference potential ~~(VR2)~~ when the further switch ~~(S1)~~ is closed.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control circuit ~~(CC)~~ comprises an comparator ~~(AM)~~ for comparing the measuring signal ~~(MS)~~ with a reference signal ~~(VR)~~ to halt the operation of the power converter when the measuring signal ~~(MS)~~ crosses the reference signal ~~(VR)~~ indicating that a voltage across the main switch ~~(M1)~~ is higher than a particular value.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diode ~~(D)~~ and the capacitor ~~(C)~~ are dimensioned to operate as a peak-limiter.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising the power converter ~~(3)~~ as claimed in claim 1.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the apparatus comprises

a processing circuit ~~(1)~~ for processing an input signal ~~(IS)~~ into an output signal ~~(OS)~~ to be made audible via a sound transducer and/or to be displayed on a display device ~~(2)~~ and

the power converter ~~(3)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load ~~(LO)~~ comprises the processing circuit ~~(1)~~.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control circuit for use in the power converter ~~(3)~~ of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.